

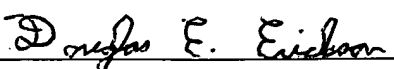
REMARKS

Reexamination and reconsideration of the application as amended are requested. Claim 5 has been amended with support found, for example, from figures 2-3. Withdrawn claim 9 has been rewritten in independent form. It is noted that withdrawn original claim 10 depends from claim 9. It is also noted that withdrawn original independent claim 19 has been allowed presumably since original generic claim 6, rewritten in independent form, has been allowed. Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the restriction requirement because original generic claim 6, rewritten in independent form, has been allowed and that the Examiner withdraw the finality of the Office Action and issue a new, non-final Office Action reflecting examination of claims 9 and 10.

The examiner's rejection of claim 5 as being "obvious", under 35 U.S.C. 103, is respectfully traversed. The Examiner rejects this claim as being unpatentable over Leech (US 4,480,166). Claim 5 has been amended wherein the first tube has a first flange, wherein the member is a second tube having a second flange, and wherein the first flange contacts the second flange either directly or indirectly through an intervening joining material. Leech does not teach, suggest, or describe a second tube having a second flange wherein the first flange of the first tube contacts the second flange of the second tube either directly or indirectly through an intervening joining material.

Inasmuch as each of the rejections has been answered by the above remarks and amended claims, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 5 be withdrawn, that the restriction requirement be withdrawn, that claims 9 and 10 be examined, and that this application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amendment

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